

Guidelines for ICG request for YELLOW FEVER VACCINE EMERGENCY STOCKPILE

How countries or agencies facing Yellow Fever epidemics can apply for support



The purpose of this guideline is to explain how countries or agencies facing Yellow Fever (YF) epidemics can apply for support from the YF outbreak vaccine stockpile. **Any country or agency facing a YF epidemic is eligible to receive vaccines from the emergency vaccine stockpile.** Gavi-eligible countries may also apply for financial support for emergency vaccination campaign operational costs.

The added value of the global vaccine stockpile is the rapid availability of quality assured vaccine (from WHO pre-qualified manufacturers only) at affordable prices.

1 International Coordinating Group (ICG)

Background

The ICG on Vaccine Provision was established in 1997, following major outbreaks of meningitis in Africa, as a mechanism to manage and coordinate the provision of emergency vaccine supplies and antibiotics to countries during major outbreaks. Working closely with vaccine producers, through WHO and UNICEF, and following disease trends, the ICG monitors its vaccine security global stock levels for **cholera**, **meningitis** and **yellow fever** to ensure availability of sufficient supply to support rapid response to disease outbreaks when they occur.

The ICG brings partners together to improve cooperation and coordination of epidemic preparedness and response. The ICG also works on forecasting vaccine stocks, negotiating vaccine prices through its networks or partners and evaluating interventions and standard protocols for managing diseases.

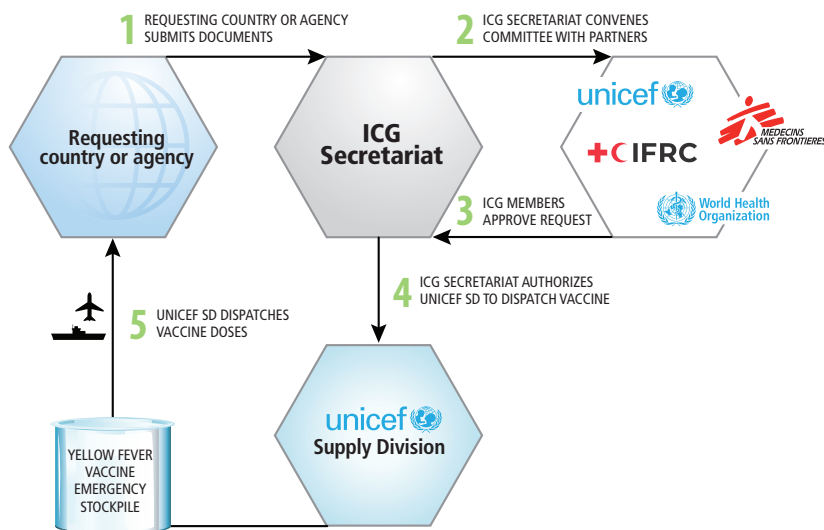
2 Releasing emergency vaccine stockpile

ICG mechanism

Vaccine to support outbreak response can be accessed by ANY country or agency facing an epidemic anywhere in the world, as long as the request fulfills ICG's criteria for release of vaccine stocks. As a first step, a country or partner agency must complete and submit a request to the ICG Secretariat using the standard [application form for yellow fever vaccine](#).

The ICG secretariat at WHO then circulates this request to the partners: **UNICEF**, **Médecins Sans Frontières**, the **International Federation of the Red Cross**, and **WHO** for review and assessment. Additional requests for information are sent back to the requester, if needed. Following a rapid consultation and evaluation process, the decision to release vaccines and other supplies is communicated to the requester within 48 hours, once all necessary information has been provided. If approved, UNICEF procures vaccines and injection materials and organizes delivery of vaccines to the requester, within 7 days.

Usually, vaccine, syringes and safety boxes will be sent by air and arrive within a week. However, requesters may choose to have syringes and safety boxes sent by sea, if injection material can be borrowed from an existing stock. The cost of sea freight is less expensive compared to air, but it may take up to 2 months before arrival. UNICEF Supply Division (SD) will keep the requester informed about volume of the shipment and the expected date of arrival.



3 Accessing the Yellow Fever vaccine stockpile

Conditions

The following conditions need to be fulfilled to apply for vaccine:

- **at least one** of the YF cases has been laboratory confirmed¹;
- **careful assessment of the epidemic risk** has been done in order to differentiate the start of an epidemic from sporadic cases due to sylvatic transmission;
- a **vaccination plan** for the immunization campaign is provided together with the request;
- the request has been **reviewed and approved by the national epidemic coordination body** or relevant focal point from Ministry of Health, in order to ensure a well-coordinated epidemic response in case many partners are involved; and
- if implemented through an agency, the agency should have extensive experience in conducting a mass vaccination campaign.

4 Financial support

Funding options for vaccine and operational costs

For Gavi-eligible countries²: The vaccine is fully financed by Gavi and countries can also request to access funds to cover the operational costs up to US\$0.65 per targeted person.

In order to receive support to cover operational costs, the country should provide a detailed budget of operational costs estimated for the implementation of the vaccination campaign (per diem for staff, local transportation of vaccines and materials, training of health staff, social mobilization, cold chain, waste management and evaluation of vaccination coverage), using the budget template available at the ICG website: <https://www.who.int/csr/disease/icg/yellow-fever/en/>

The itemized budget needs to be submitted to the relevant WHO disease control programme and will review alongside Gavi. Once approved, the WHO financial team will order the transfer of funds to the adequate budget centre in the corresponding WHO country office.

For non-Gavi countries: Although all countries are able to access the stockpile, countries that are not eligible for Gavi support are required to repay the total cost³ of the procurement of vaccines. In addition, these countries are responsible for fully funding the operational costs with domestic resources or from other sources.

Countries need to include in the initial request their commitment to repay the vaccine cost, so that UNICEF SD is able to send the vaccines without any delay once the ICG request is approved. The country should also indicate the availability of funds to cover operational costs for the campaign in order to support the request for emergency vaccine stockpile.

¹ The WHO case definition for Yellow Fever outbreak is to have at least one laboratory confirmed case. See Yellow fever surveillance and outbreak response: revision of case definitions, October 2010. Weekly Epidemiological Record, 2010, 85:465-472 at <http://www.who.int/wer/2010/wer8547/en/index.html>

² List of countries eligible for Gavi support in Annex 2 of 'How to request new Gavi support': <https://www.gavi.org/news/document-library/how-request-new-gavi-support>

³ Total costs include vaccines and injection materials (safety boxes, auto disable and reconstitution syringes), as well as packing costs, insurance and shipment.

5 How to apply for vaccine in the ICG Stockpile

Compile, complete & send

To apply for vaccine in the stockpile, the country or agency must initially send a written request to the ICG Secretariat with the following documents:

- 1 Complete the **ICG Yellow Fever vaccine request application form**
- 2 Include **map(s) illustrating locations of cases** (spot map), areas planned for vaccination and adjacent areas
- 3 Complete the 4 Excel files, Annexes 1-4:
 - **Annex 1:** Epidemiological information by date of onset & laboratory data
 - **Annex 2:** History of yellow fever outbreaks
 - **Annex 3:** Yellow fever vaccination coverage
 - **Annex 4:** Estimation of vaccines and injection material needs
- 4 Complete the **campaign budget template** (Separate file)
- 5 Include your **vaccination plan by district** (Objective of mass vaccination, targeted zone, planned vaccination date, duration, number of teams)

The requesting country or agency should be aware that the YF-ICG's decision regarding the release of vaccine from the ICG stockpile is based on the information provided. Requests are evaluated taking into account the epidemiological situation, vaccination strategy, pre-existing stocks in the country and operational aspects of the epidemic response. Therefore, *it is important to complete the documents correctly and thoroughly*. If the documents are not completed adequately, the YF-ICG Secretariat will ask for clarification, which may delay the whole process. In this regard, when a request is submitted by a WHO country office, the support of the WHO regional office can be very useful in ensuring an adapted vaccination strategy is followed and the ICG request is properly submitted.

All documents should be sent to the ICG Secretariat by email to:

ICGsecretariat@who.int

INTERNATIONAL COORDINATING GROUP (ICG) ON
Vaccine provision for Yellow Fever

www.who.int/csr/disease/icg/yellow-fever/en/